

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1746

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Commerce & Trade, April 2, 2003

Title: An act relating to electrical contractor licenses.

Brief Description: Requiring electrical contractors to be licensed before advertising.

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander, Conway, DeBolt, Chandler and Simpson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Commerce & Trade: 3/28/03, 4/2/03 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & TRADE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Honeyford, Chair; Hewitt, Vice Chair; Franklin, Keiser and Mulliken.

Staff: Elizabeth Mitchell (786-7430)

Background: State law provides that it is unlawful to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of doing certain electrical work without having an electrical contractor license. State law does not explicitly prohibit advertising, offering to do, or submitting a bid for such work without a license.

In contrast, it is unlawful to advertise, offer to do work, submit a bid, engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of doing telecommunications work without having a telecommunications contractor license. Similarly, it is unlawful to advertise, offer to do work, submit a bid, or perform any work as a contractor without being a registered contractor.

Summary of Amended Bill: It is unlawful to advertise, offer to do, or submit a bid for electrical work without having an electrical contractor license, as well as to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of doing certain electrical work without such a license.

All advertising and documents that show a contractor's name or address must show the contractor's name or address as registered with the department. All advertising that shows the contractor's name or address must show the contractor's current registration number, with specified exceptions.

Amended Bill Compared to Original Bill: All advertising and documents that show a contractor's name or address must show the contractor's name or address as registered with the department. All advertising that shows the contractor's name or address must show the contractor's current registration number, with specified exceptions.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill would make electrical contractor requirements consistent with requirements for telecommunications and building contractors. Advertising is part of doing business; if a contractor is not allowed to do the work without a license, he/she should not be allowed to advertise without a license.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Alexander, prime sponsor (pro).